

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 221

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 175

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 221—Relative to Japanese-American World War II veterans of California.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 16, 2002.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 221, Nakano. Japanese-American World War II veterans.

This measure would recognize and thank the Nisei World War II veterans for their extraordinary and heroic service to America during World War II, and declare that their sacrifice and valor should forever be a reminder of the true spirit of democracy in America.

WHEREAS, The Japanese-American veterans, including the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service, and other men and women who faithfully and resolutely served America during World War II, have traveled from all regions of California to take part in a special dedication in their honor at the State Capitol on June 24, 2002; and

WHEREAS, That fateful day, December 7, 1941, forever changed the lives of these Americans of Japanese ancestry, relocating many from their homes in California to internment camps as a result of the Presidential Executive Order 9066; and

WHEREAS, Despite their living in horrendous conditions behind barbed wire and being classified 4C “enemy alien,” these brave young Nisei answered the call and volunteered to defend their country, the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, The United States Army allowed them to serve in segregated military units, including the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and Military Intelligence Service, that afforded them the opportunity to prove their loyalty and citizenship through military service; and

WHEREAS, The 100th Infantry Battalion, comprised of mainly Nisei from Hawaii, was later attached to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team as its 1st Battalion, and valiantly fought in six major campaigns in the European Theater, including Monte Cassino, Anzio, Po Valley, the Liberation of Bruyeres, and the Rescue of the Lost Battalion, and is recognized as the “Purple Heart Battalion”; and

WHEREAS, The 442nd Regimental Combat Team composed of volunteers and draftees from Hawaii and the mainland internment camps

joined the 100th Battalion in the European Theater in 1944, participating in major battles at Belvedere, Hill 140, Bruyeres, Biffontaine, Po Valley-Gothic Line, and the invasion of southern France; and

WHEREAS, One of the most poignant episodes of World War II occurred on October 30 1944, in France, as the 100/442 was called up to rescue the decimated Texans of the 36th Division who were surrounded by the enemy; fearlessly answering the order the 100/442 saved 211 lives, while taking more that 800 casualties; and

WHEREAS, The 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, who was originally attached to the 442nd and later assigned to the 62nd Infantry Division, marched through Germany and in one of the most ironic twists of World War II, liberated the Dachau concentration camp, while their families were undeservedly residing behind barbed wire internment camps; and

WHEREAS, America's secret weapon in the Pacific Theater, the Nisei soldiers of the Military Intelligence Service, were dispatched to every major battle and campaign in the Pacific as linguists who interpreted enemy documents and radio transmissions as well as prepared propaganda, interrogated prisoners of war and assisted with the surrender and United States occupation after the war's end, and whose contributions saved millions of American lives and shortened the war in the Pacific by two years; and

WHEREAS, These valiant efforts have been recognized by the U.S. government with numerous military awards, including 18,143 individual decorations that include 21 Medals of Honor, 52 Distinguished Service Crosses, 559 Silver Stars, with 28 Oak Leaf Clusters in lieu of second Silver Stars awards, 8 Presidential Unit Citations, 4,000 Bronze Stars, with 1,200 Oak Leaf Clusters representing second Bronze Stars, and 9,486 casualties receiving Purple Hearts, the State of California has never formally honored the more than 30,000 Japanese-American men and women who served in the United States Army during World War II; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature recognizes the Nisei World War II veterans for their extraordinary and heroic service to America during World War II and declare that their sacrifice and valor should forever be a reminder of the true spirit of democracy in America; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature thanks the 100th/442, who are the most highly decorated military unit in the history of the United States, and who are truly our American heroes, for their sacrifice, courage, and service to our great nation; and be it further



Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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